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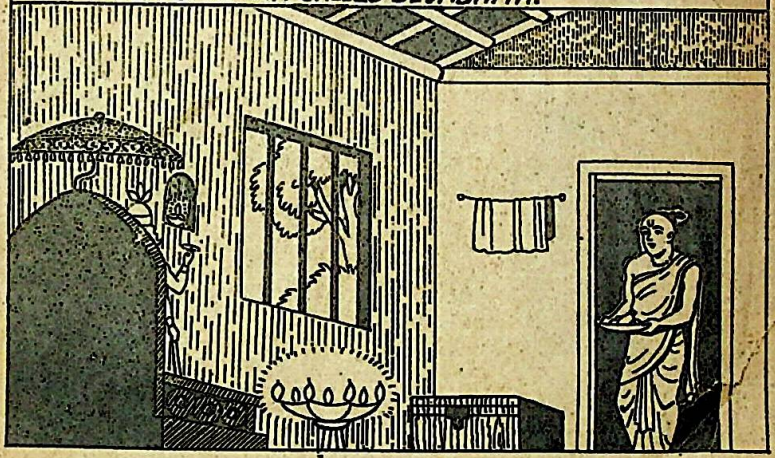
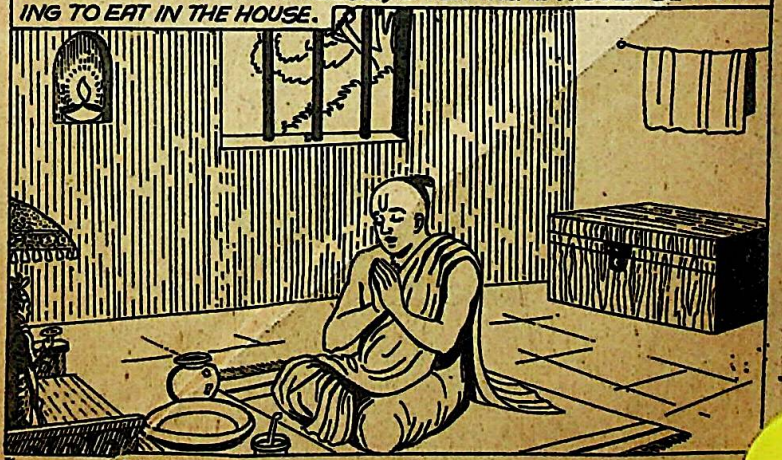
28/10/81 L9
1587

VISHNU SAHASRANAMA OF 999 NAMES

ONCE UPON A TIME, ON THE BANKS OF THE GANGES, LIVED A VERY POOR BRAHMIN CALLED DEVADATTA.



HIS MIND WAS FOREVER ABSORBED IN THE WORSHIP OF LORD VISHNU. ALL DAY LONG HE WOULD CHANT THE VISHNU SAHASRANAMA.* AS A RESULT, OFTEN THERE WOULD BE NOTHING TO EAT IN THE HOUSE.



*THE THOUSAND NAMES OF LORD VISHNU.

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*THE WORD USED IN THE VISHNU SAHASRANAMA IS BHOOTA-BHRIT

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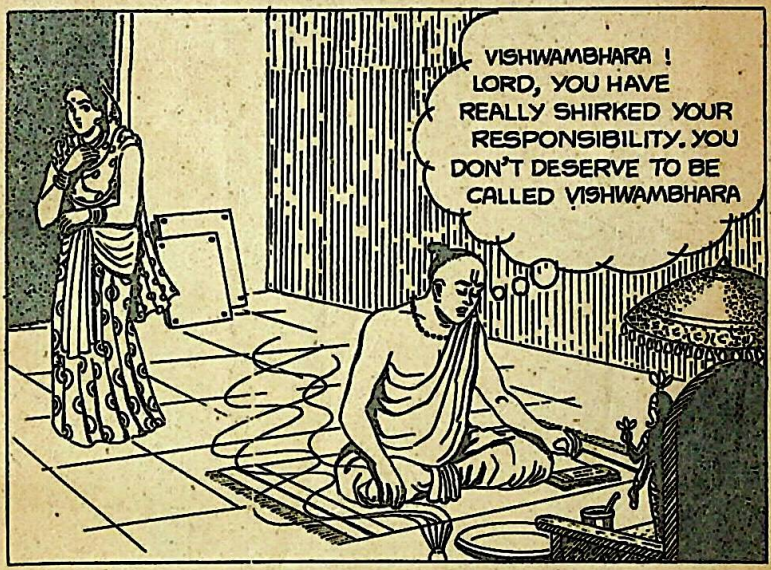

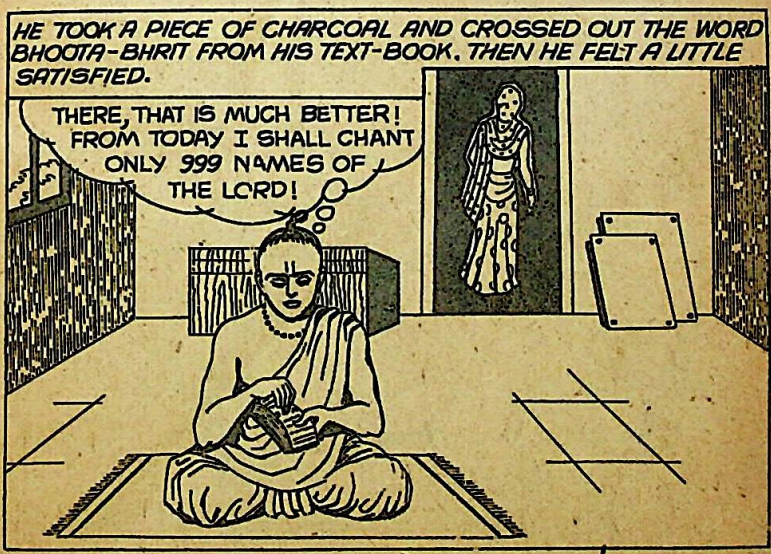

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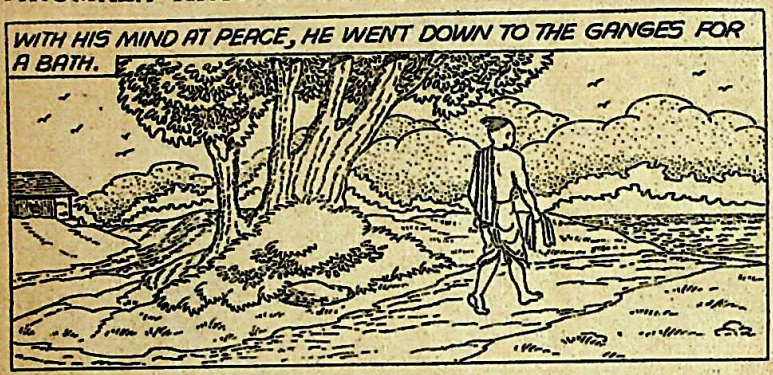

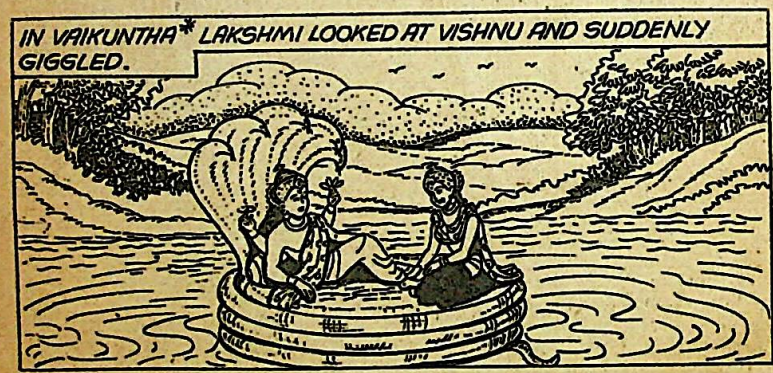

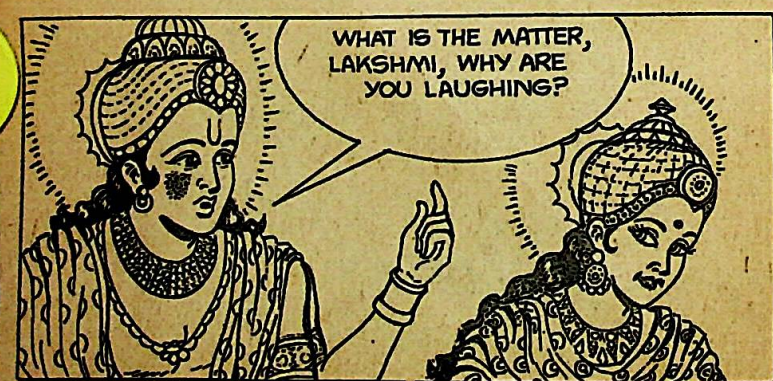

*THE ABODE OF LORD VISHNU.

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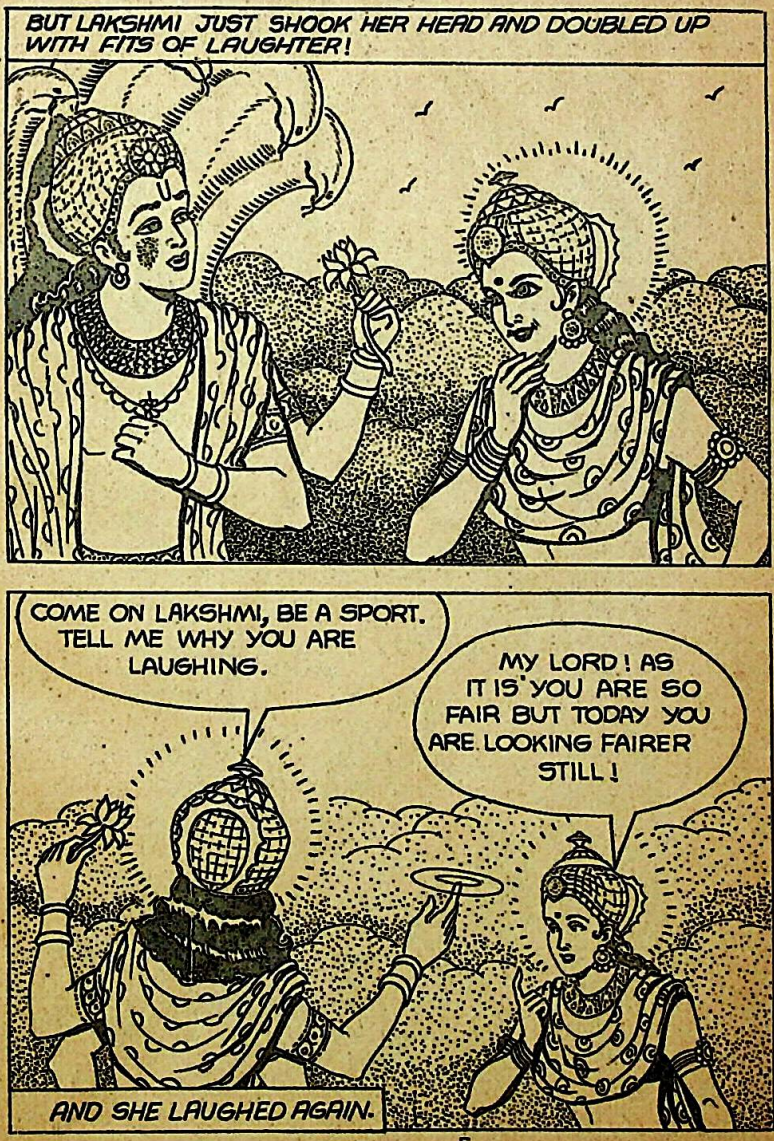

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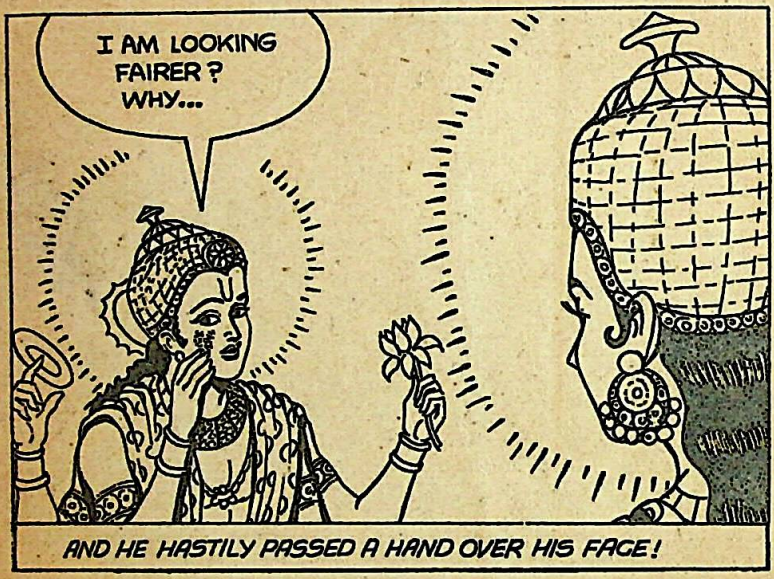

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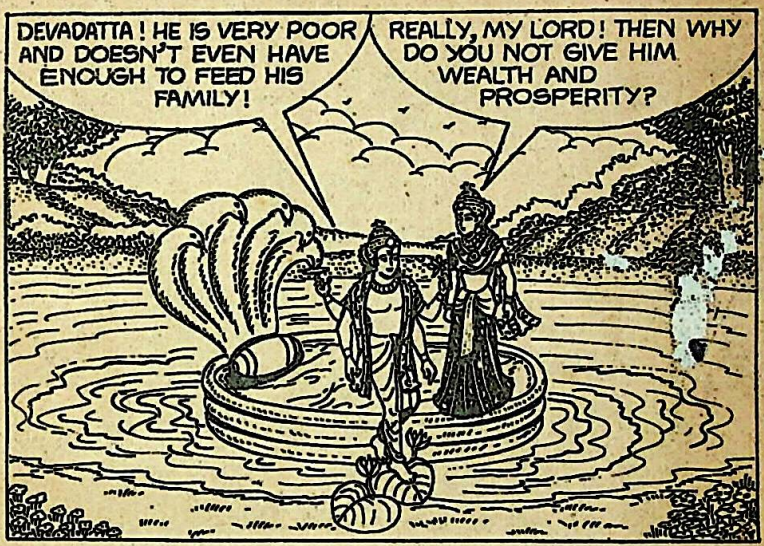

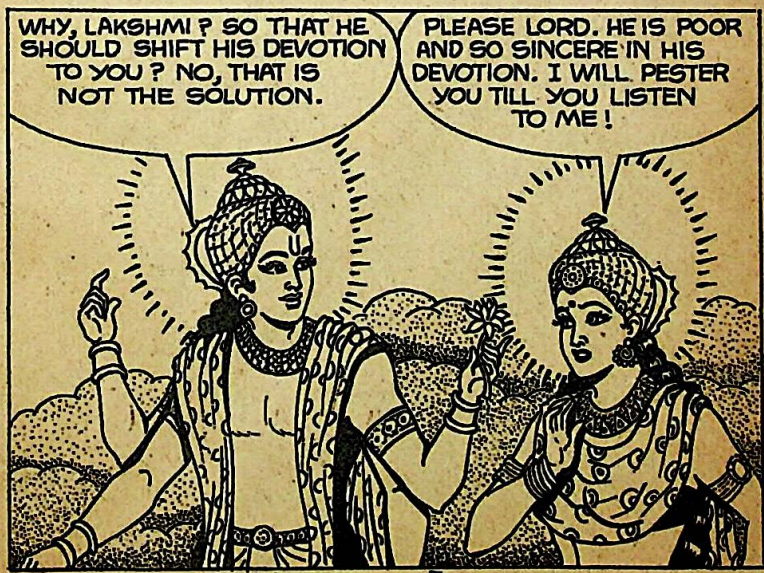

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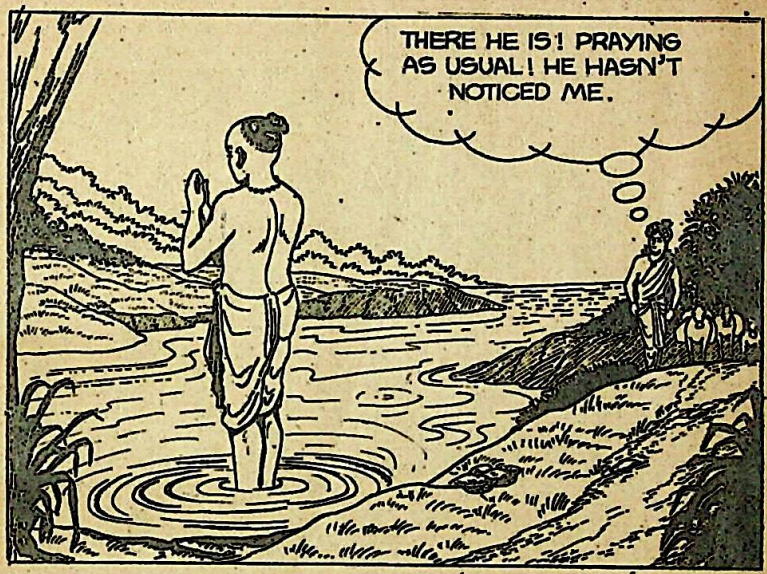

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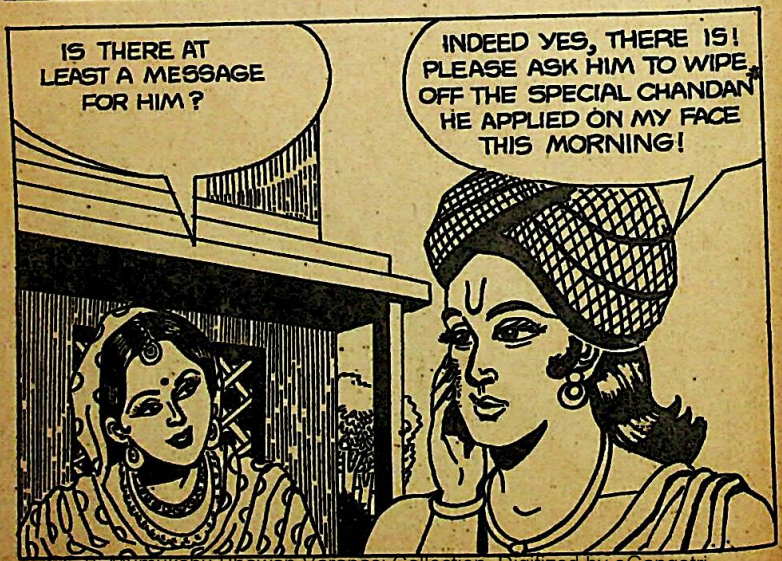

*SANDAL-PASTE

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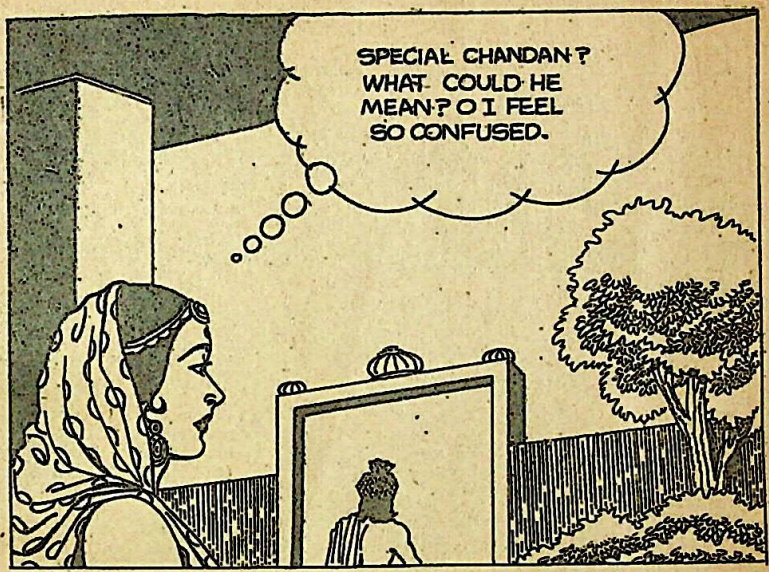

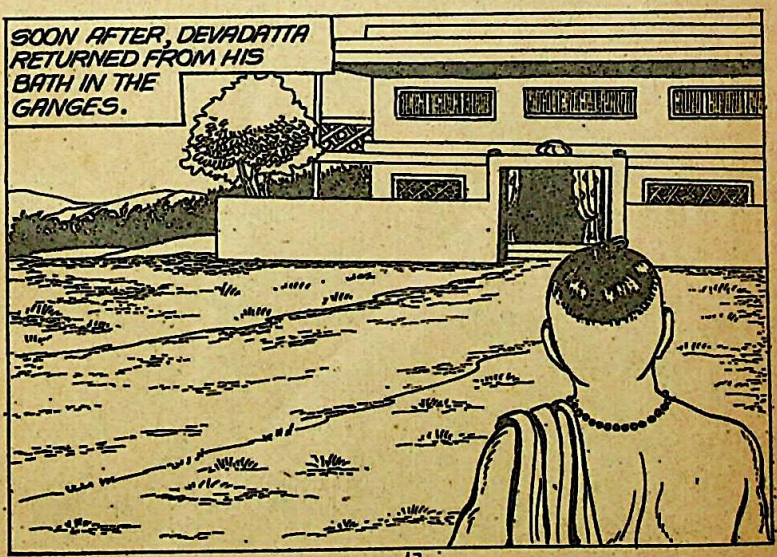

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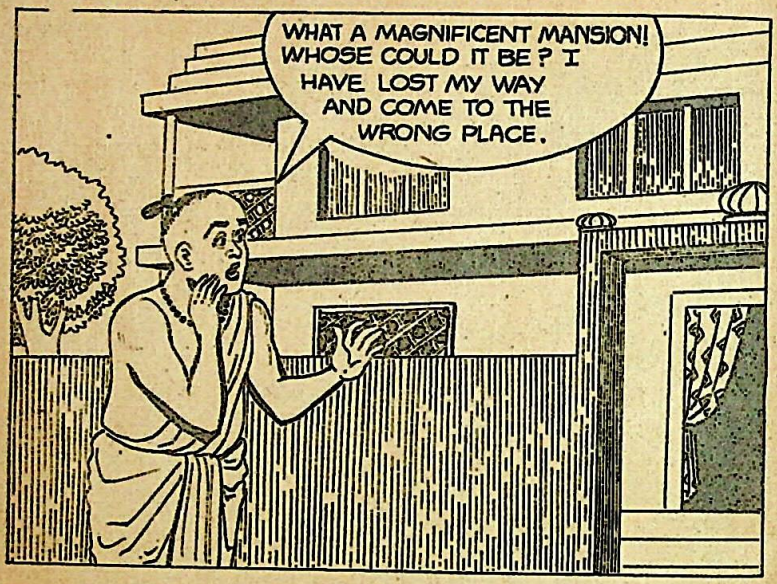

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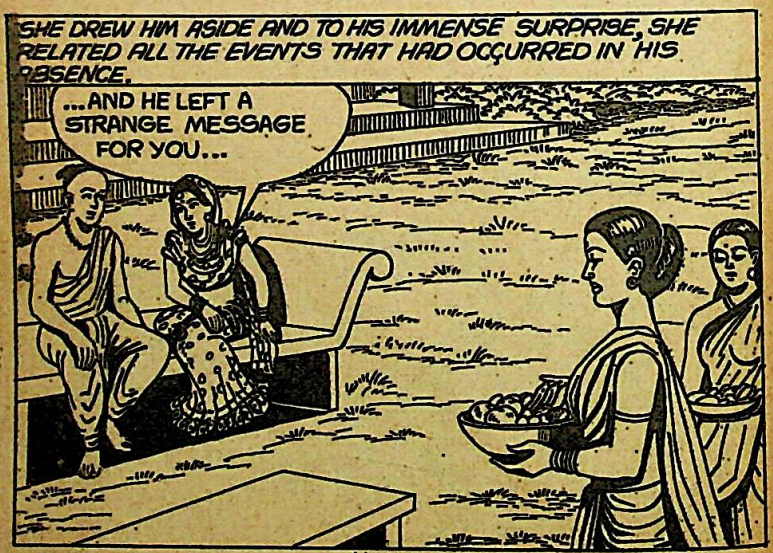

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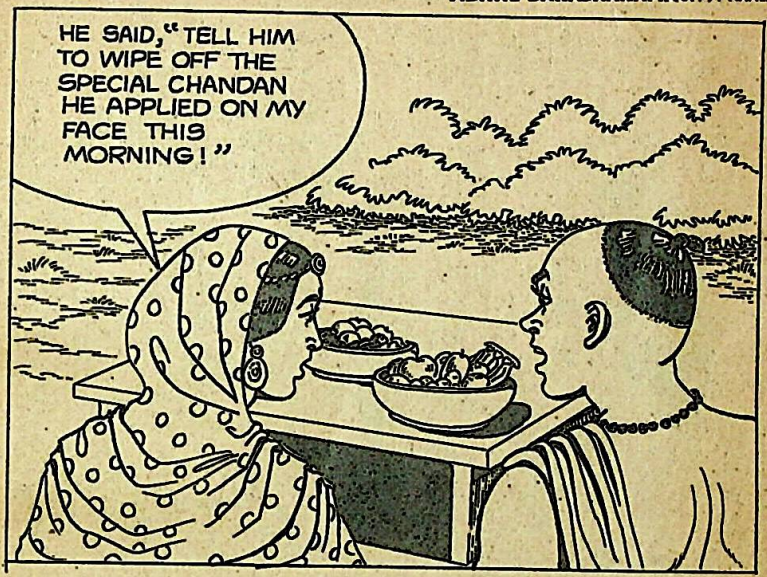

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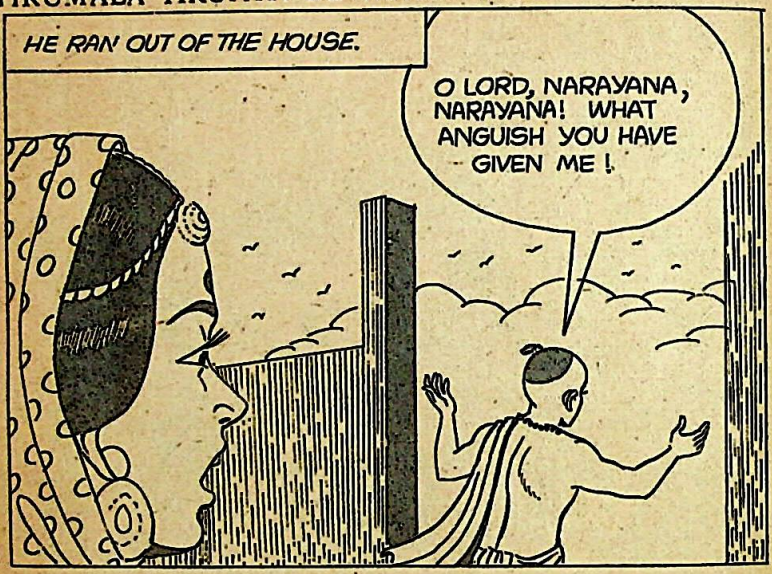

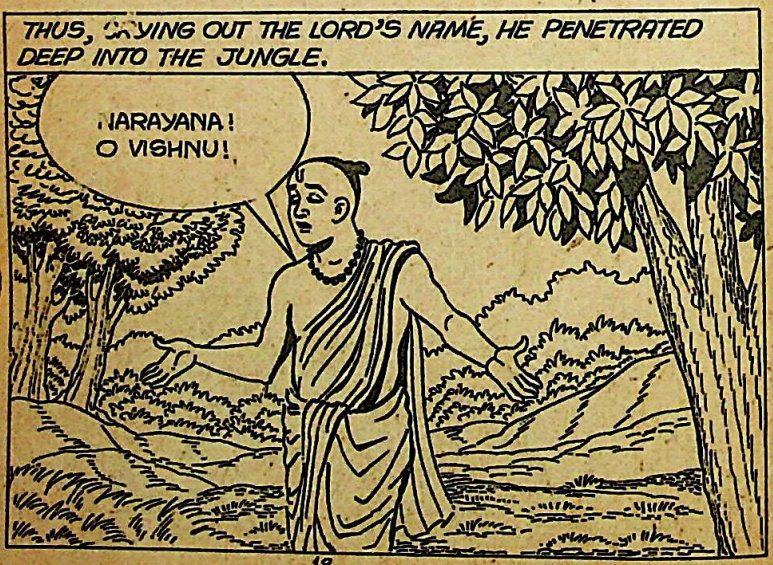

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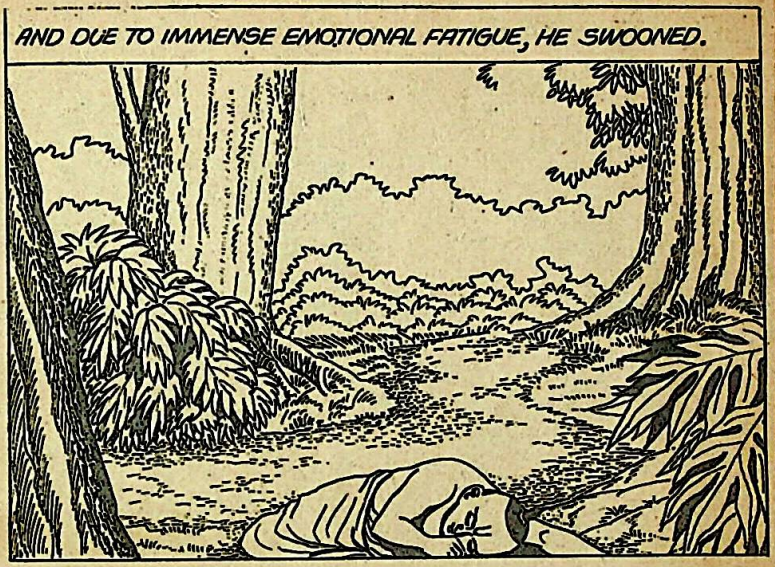

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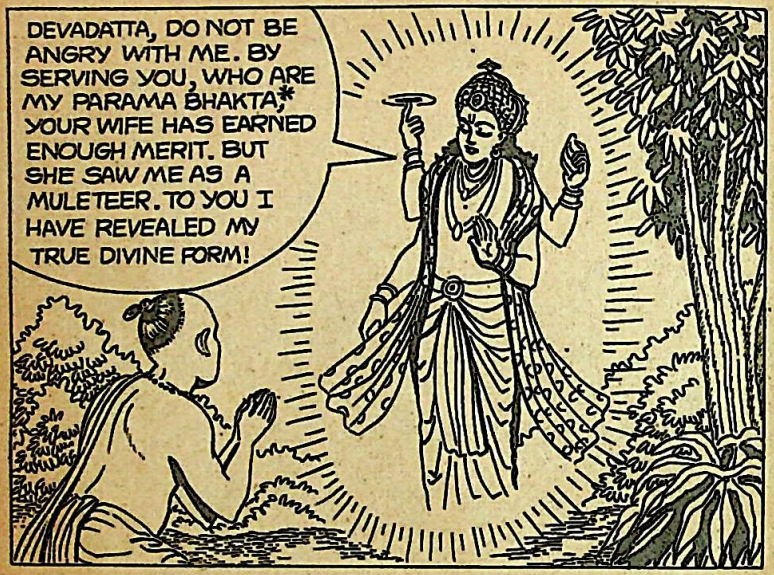

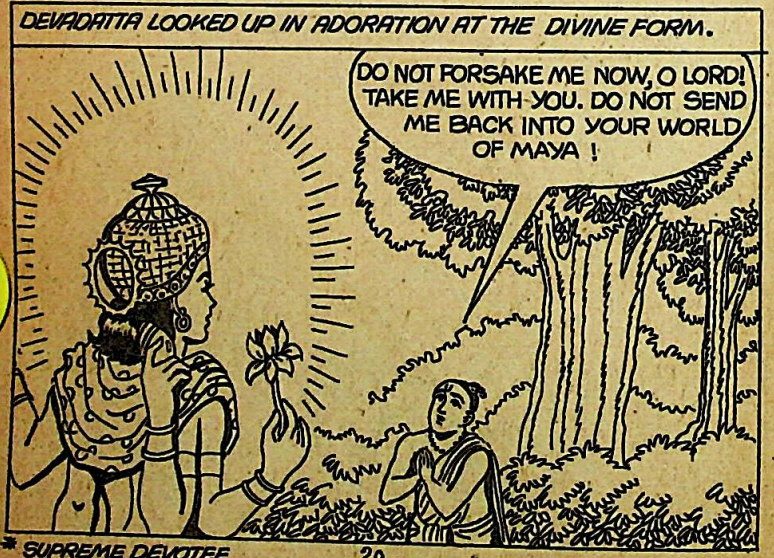

* SUPREME DEVOTEE

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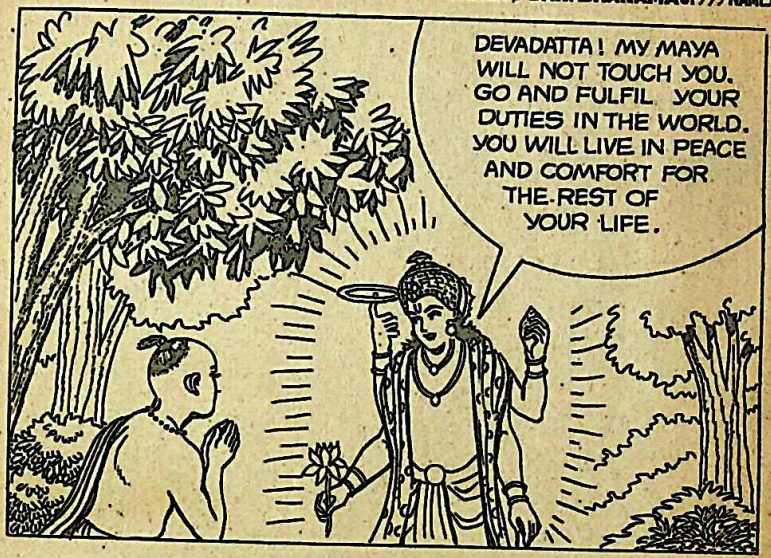
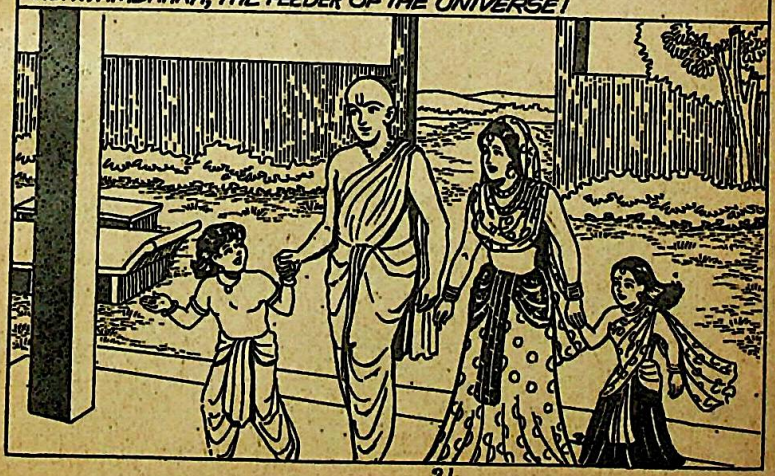


WITH THE BLESSING OF THE LORD, DEVADATTA WENT BACK HOME. NO ONE PESTERED HIM FOR FOOD AND CLOTHES AND HE SPENT THE REST OF HIS DAYS IN CONTEMPLATION UPON VISHWAMBHARA, THE FEEDER OF THE UNIVERSE!



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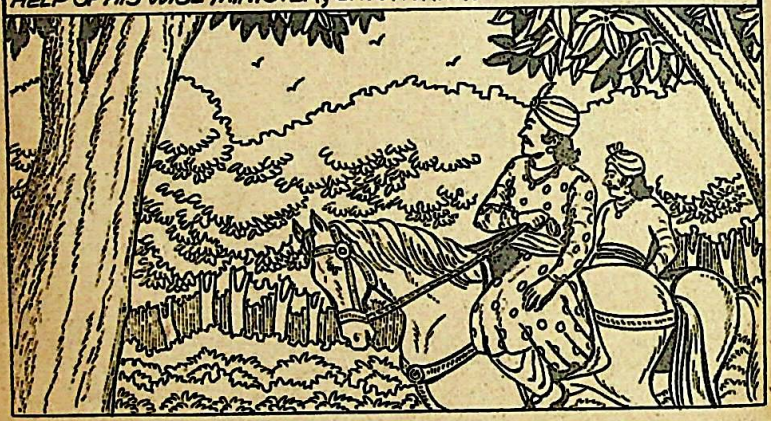
WHO IS GOD ?...

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE LIVED A PIOUS AND BENEVOLENT KING WHO RULED THE COUNTRY MOST EFFECIENTLY, WITH THE HELP OF HIS WISE MINISTER, SATYAVRITA.



EVERYONE RESPECTED THE KING, AS WAS HIS DUE. BUT THEY LOVED HIS MINISTER DEARLY, FOR HE WAS KIND AND ALWAYS SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR PROBLEMS.

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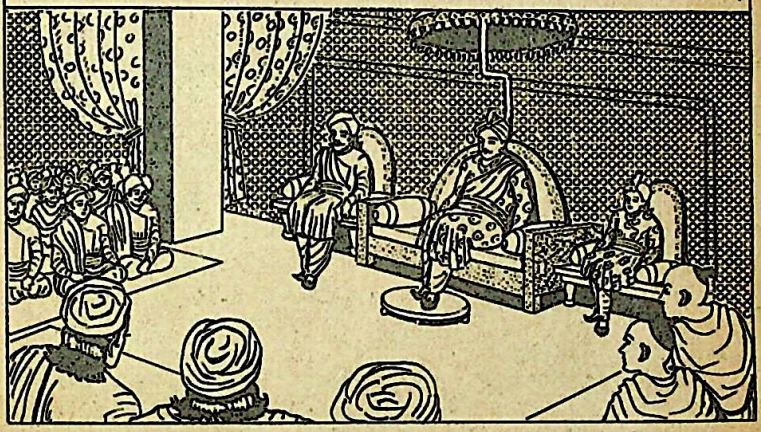
THE KING AND HIS MINISTER OFTEN HELD LEARNED DISCUSSIONS ON PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION. VERY OFTEN, THE CROWN PRINCE WOULD BE PRESENT.



BUT HE WAS YOUNG AND UNINITIATED AND THEREFORE TOO IMMATURE TO FOLLOW THEIR DISCUSSIONS.

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING? WHY DO THEY TALK SO MUCH ABOUT GOD? I WISH I COULD UNDERSTAND!

CC-0. Mumukshu Bhawan Varanasi Collection. Digitized by eGangotri

TIME PASSED ON AND THE OLD KING DIED. THE PRINCE WAS CROWNED KING.

HAIL!

GLORY TO OUR KING!

SATYAVRITA WAS DEVOTED TO THE ROYAL FAMILY AND ALTHOUGH HE MISSED THE OLD MONARCH, HE SERVED THE YOUNG KING FAITHFULLY.

MAY THE LORD'S BLESSING BE UPON YOU!

I RESPECT THE OLD MAN BUT WHY DOES HE PRAISE GOD SO MUCH?

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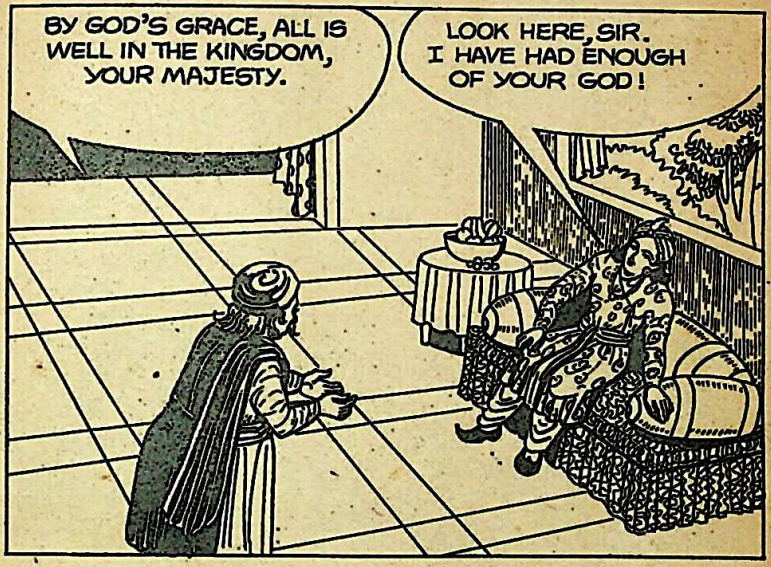

THE MINISTER WAS PAINED, FOR HE KNEW THE YOUNG KING ENTERTAINED DOUBTS ABOUT THE VERY EXISTENCE OF GOD.

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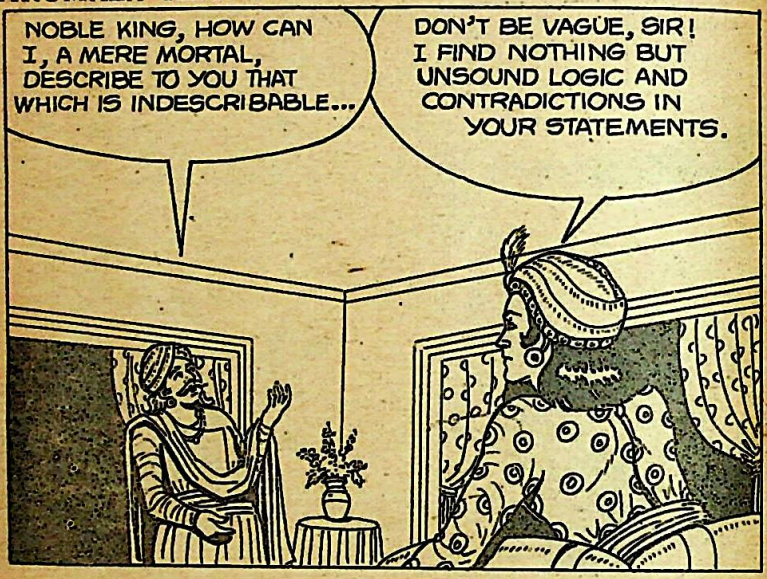

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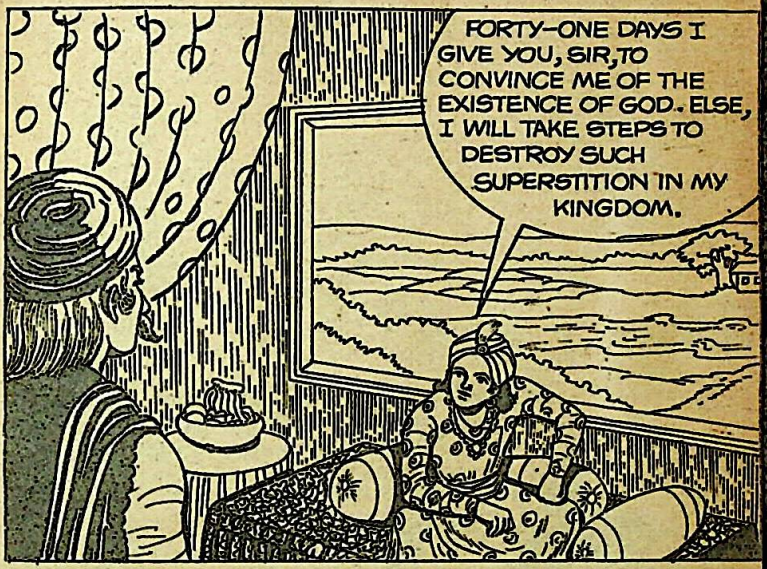

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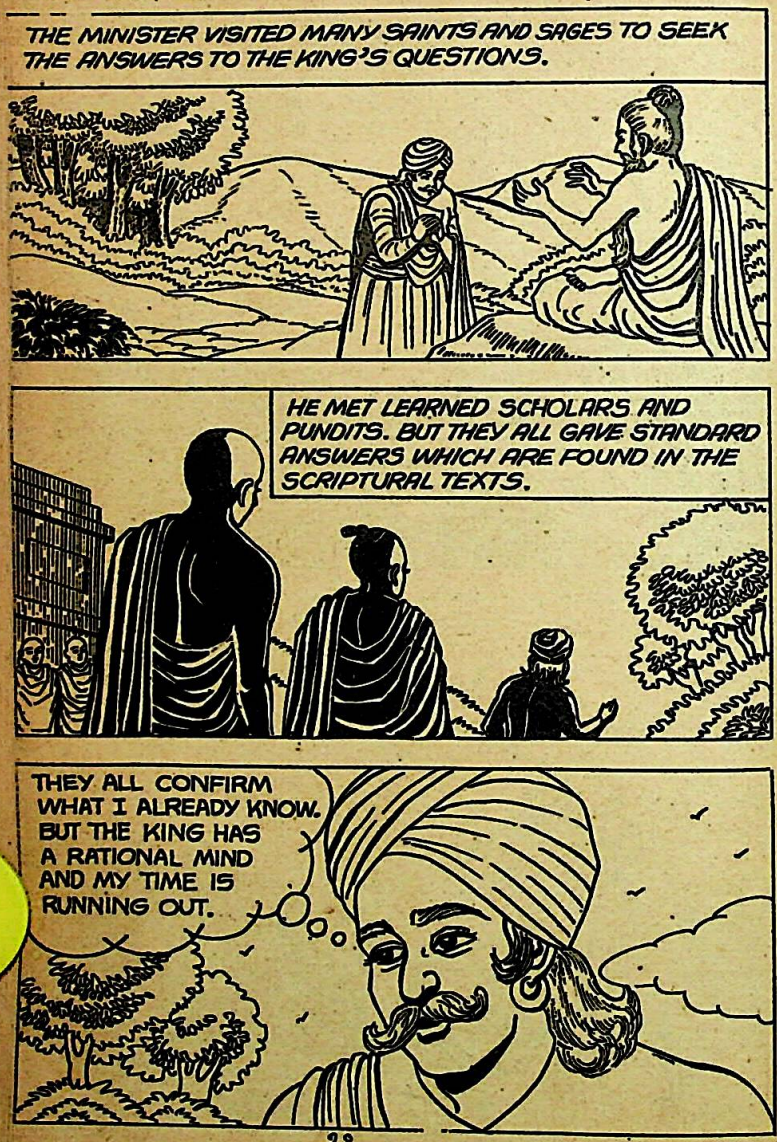

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THAT NIGHT, AS HIS OLD BRAHMIN COOK WAS SERVING HIM HIS MEAL—

HE DOESN'T EAT WELL THESE DAYS. HE DRESSES CARELESSLY AND APPEARS WORRIED.

SIR, I HAVE SERVED YOU FAITHFULLY FOR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS, BUT NEVER HAVE I SEEN YOU LOOK SO WORRIED.

TOMORROW IS THE DAY OF RECKONING AND I HAVE NO ANSWERS FOR THE KING. I LEAVE EVERYTHING TO GOD.

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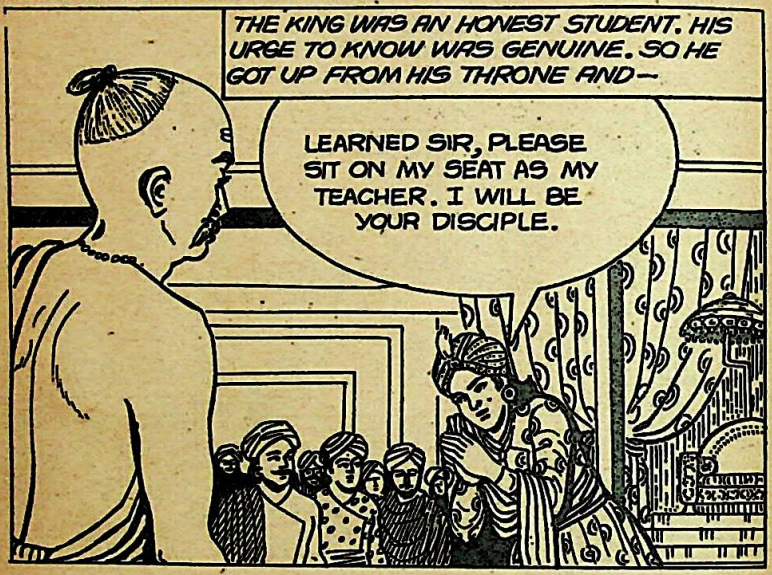

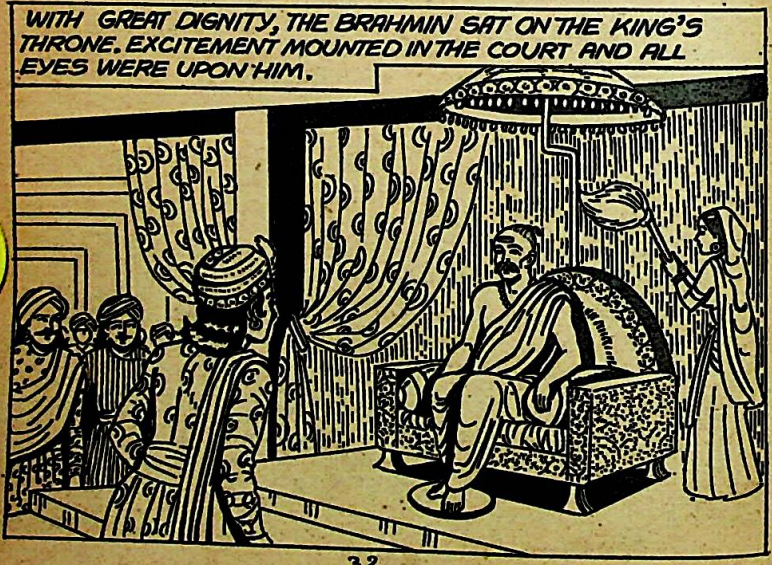

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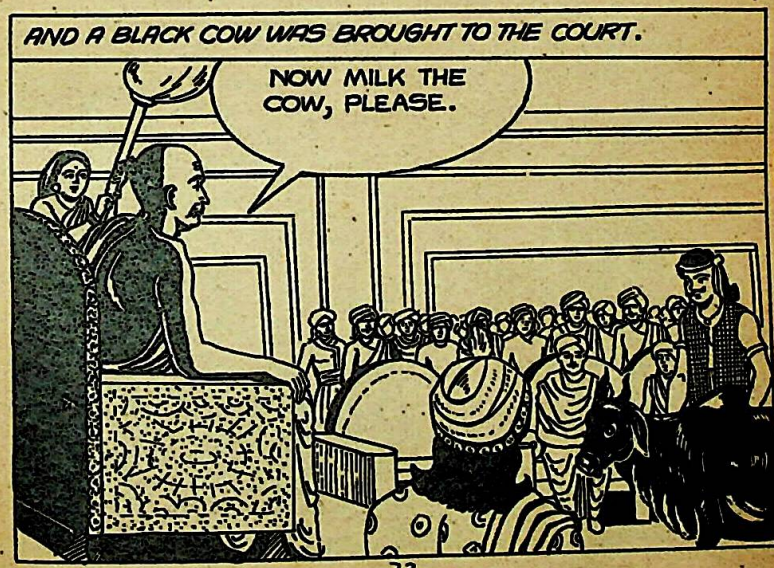

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THE BOWL OF MILK WAS THEN HANDED TO THE WONDERING KING AT THE INSTRUCTION OF THE OLD BRAHMIN.

DO YOU SEE, O KING, THE MILK IN THE BOWL ?

I DO MAHARAJ!

WHAT COLOUR IS IT RAJAN ?

IT IS ABSOLUTELY WHITE, SIR.

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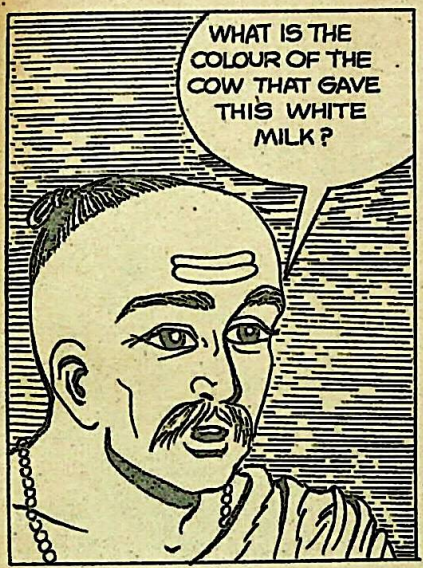

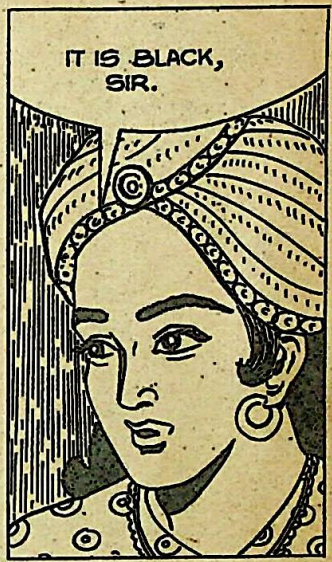

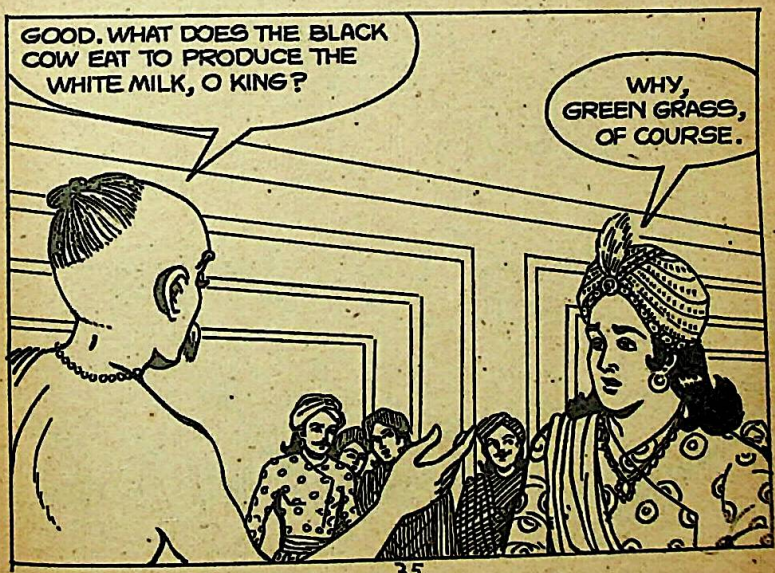

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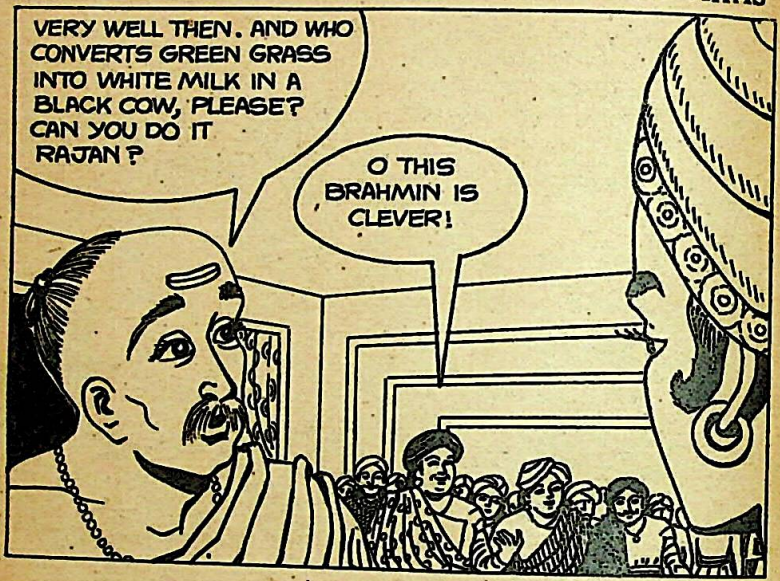

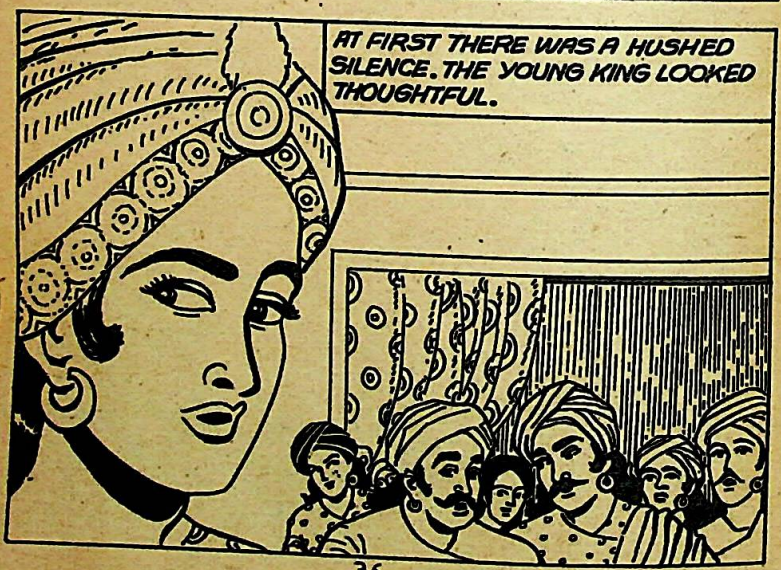

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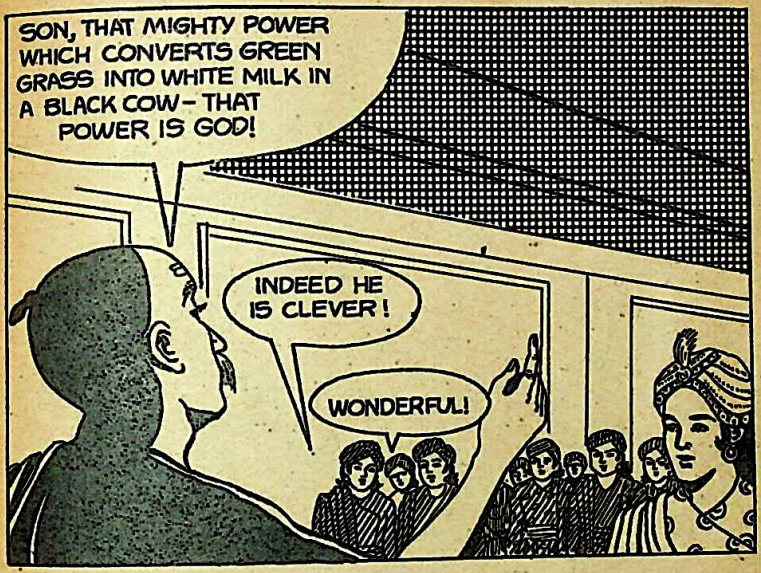

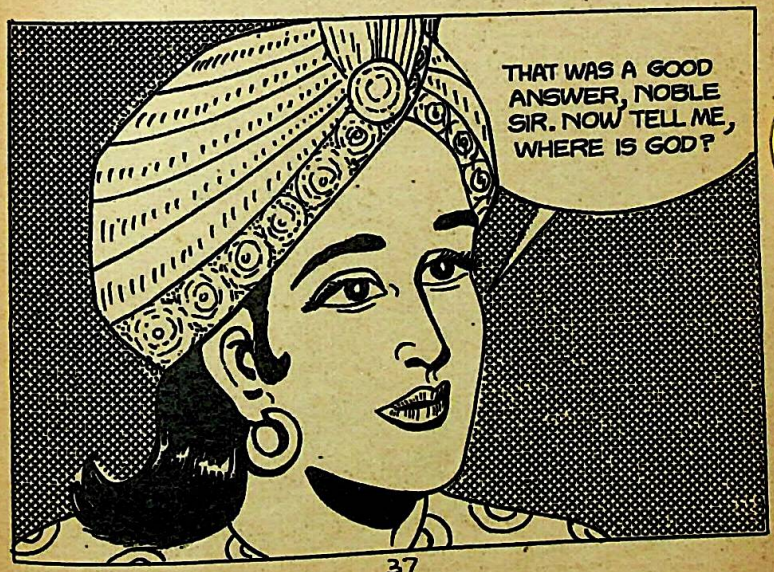

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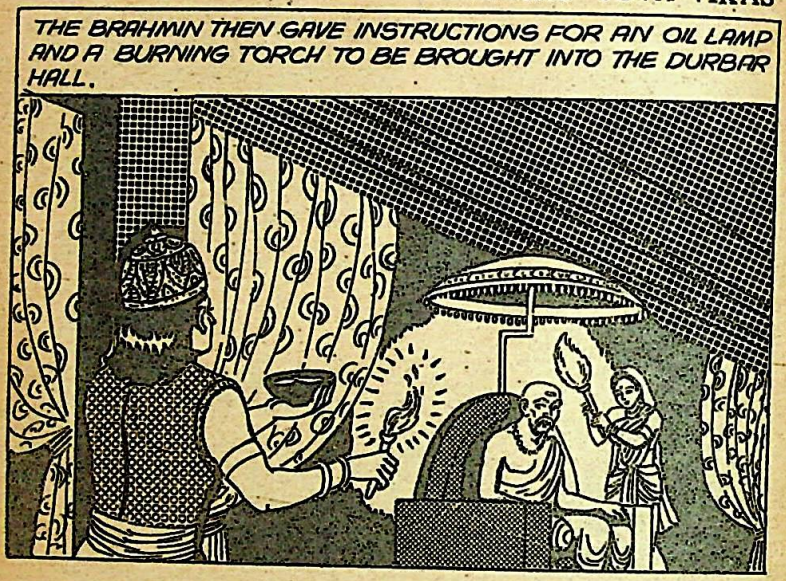

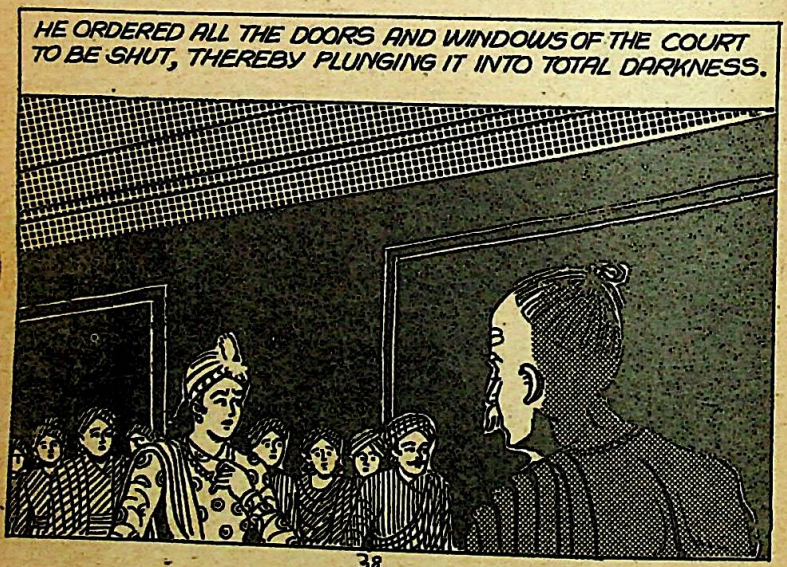

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THEN HE TOOK THE TORCH AND LIT THE LAMP.

TILL NOW WE WERE IN DARKNESS, O KING. NOW TELL ME, WHERE EXACTLY IS THE LIGHT OF THE LAMP. MIND YOU, NOT THE FLAME, BUT THE LIGHT!

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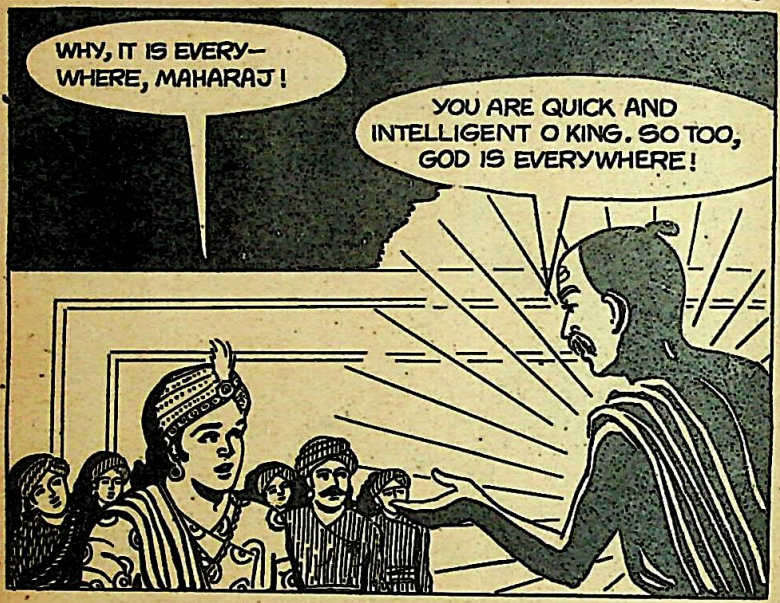

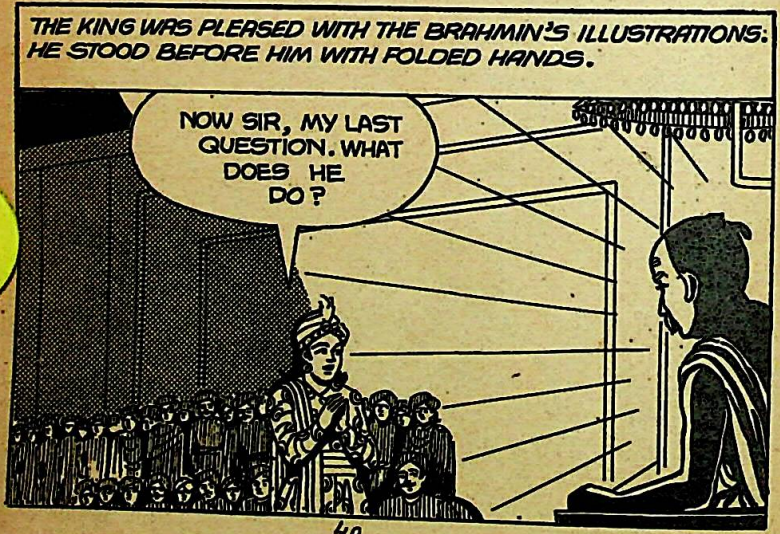

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JUST THEN, THE WISE OLD MINISTER, SATYAVRITA ENTERED THE COURT. HIS HEART WAS HEAVY AND HIS COUNTENANCE GRAVE.

AFTER DOING OBEISANCE TO THE THRONE, HE TOOK HIS SEAT. ONLY THEN DID HE SEE—

MY COOK! WHAT IS HE DOING ON THE KING'S THRONE?

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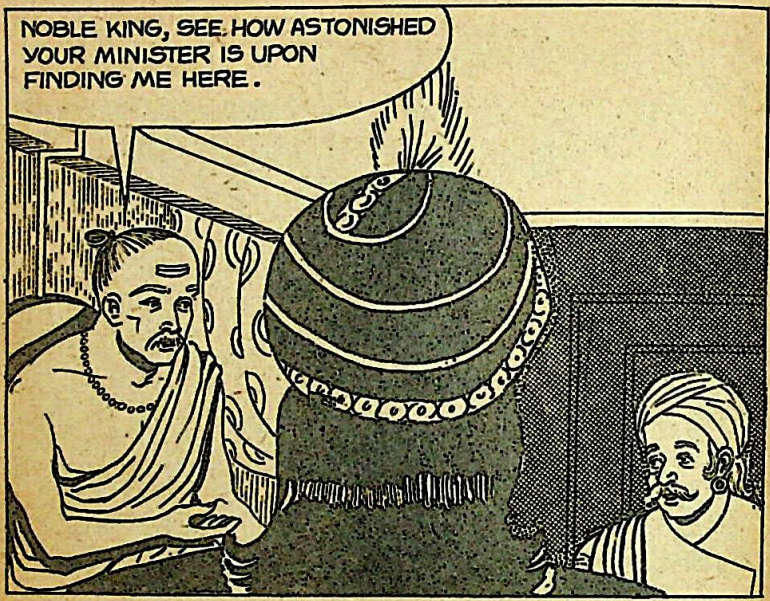

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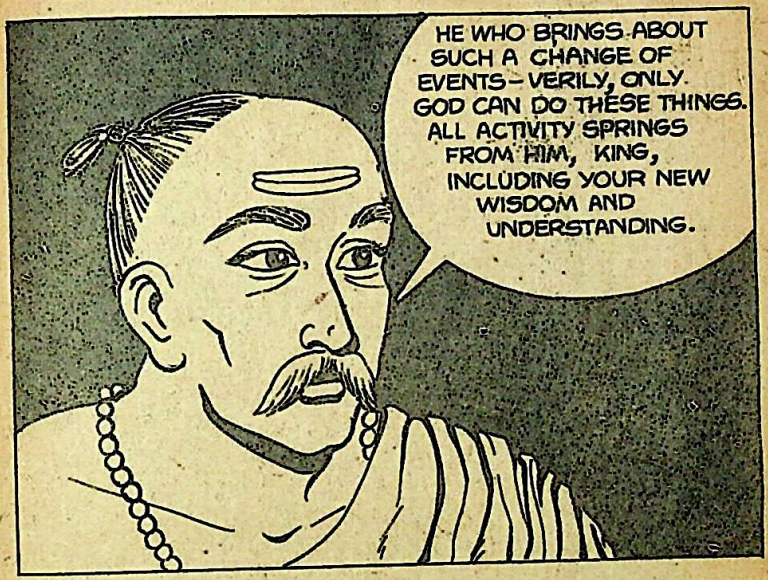

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THE KING ALSO SOUGHT SATYAVRITA'S BLESSINGS.

SIR, HELP ME TO GOVERN WITH COMPASSION AND WISDOM.

YOU ARE HONEST AND NOBLE, O KING. GOD'S BLESSINGS WILL ALWAYS BE UPON YOU.

BY GOD'S GRACE, THE OLD BRAHMIN HAS GIVEN ME A GLIMPSE OF THE LORD'S GLORY!

LONG LIVE OUR KING!

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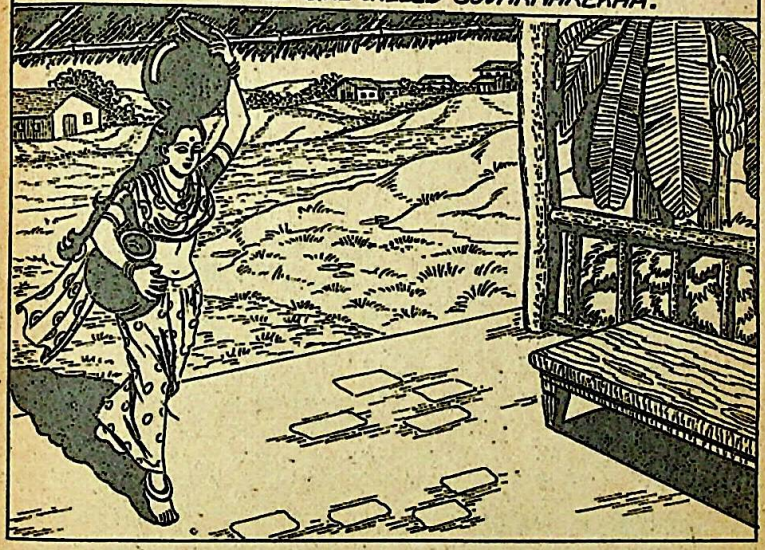
QUEEN SUVARNAREKHA

ONCE, THERE LIVED IN A CERTAIN WEAVER'S COLONY, A BEAUTIFUL YET SIMPLE GIRL CALLED SUVARNAREKHA.



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ONE DAY, THE KING OF THE LAND, DESIROUS OF KNOWING HOW HIS WEAVERS LIVED AND WORKED, VISITED THEIR COLONY.

HE STEPPED DOWN HIS HORSE AND WALKED UP THE TWO STEPS TO THE CHIEF WEAVER'S HOUSE.

RAJAN! I AM GREATLY HONOURED BY YOUR VISIT. DO COME IN.

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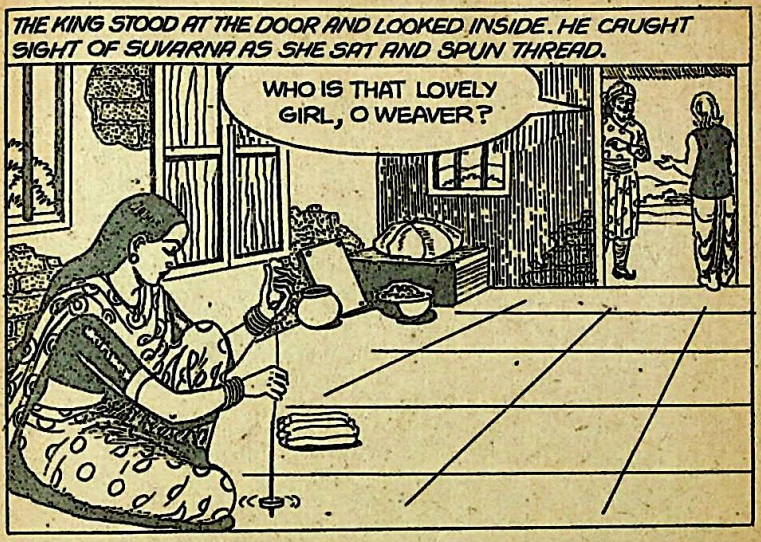

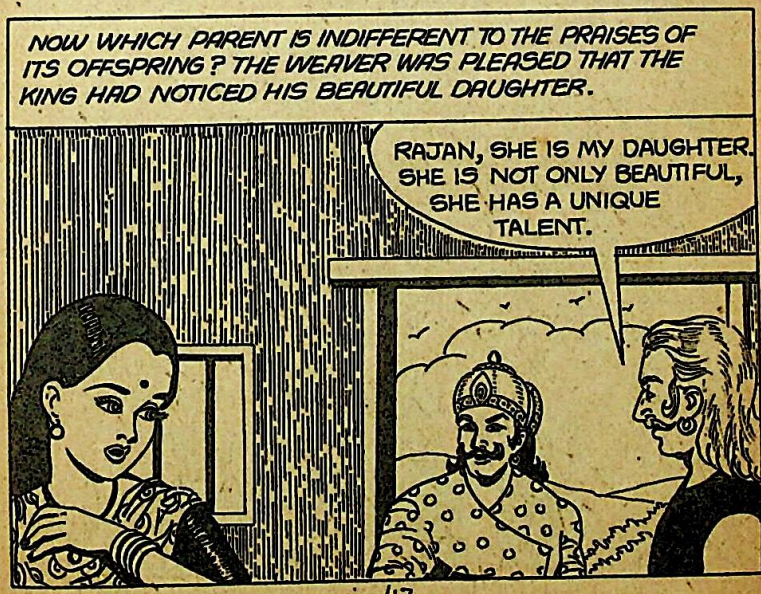

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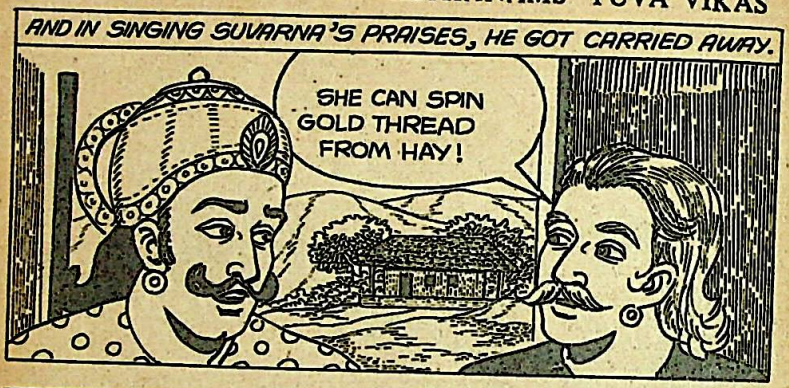

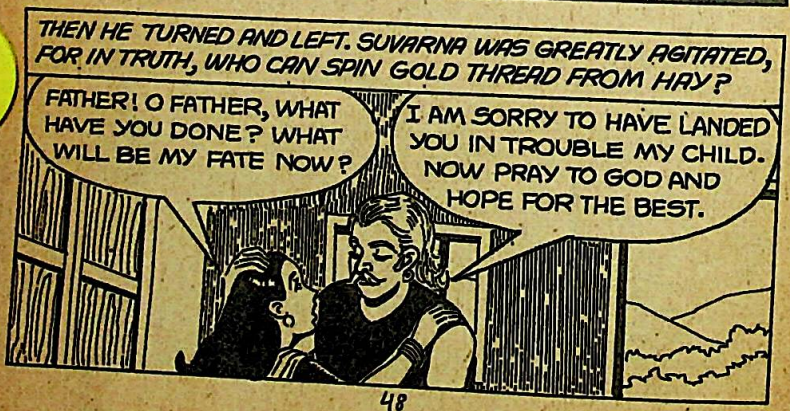

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SO AFTER BIDDING HER FATHER A TEARFUL FAREWELL, SHE LEFT FOR THE PALACE WITH THE KING'S ESCORT.

WHEN SHE ARRIVED THERE, SHE WAS LED, TO HER UTTER DISMAY, INTO A ROOM WITH A HUGE STACK OF HAY.

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SUVARNA LOOKED ON, HORRIFIED, AS THE KING AND HIS GUARDS TURNED AWAY...

...AND LOCKED THE DOOR ON HER. A GREAT BIG TEAR COURSED DOWN HER CHEEK.

MY LORD, O RAMA! WHAT AM I TO DO? HOW CAN I SPIN THIS INTO GOLD THREAD?

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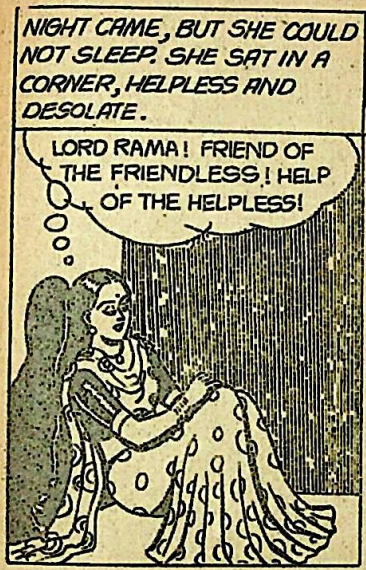

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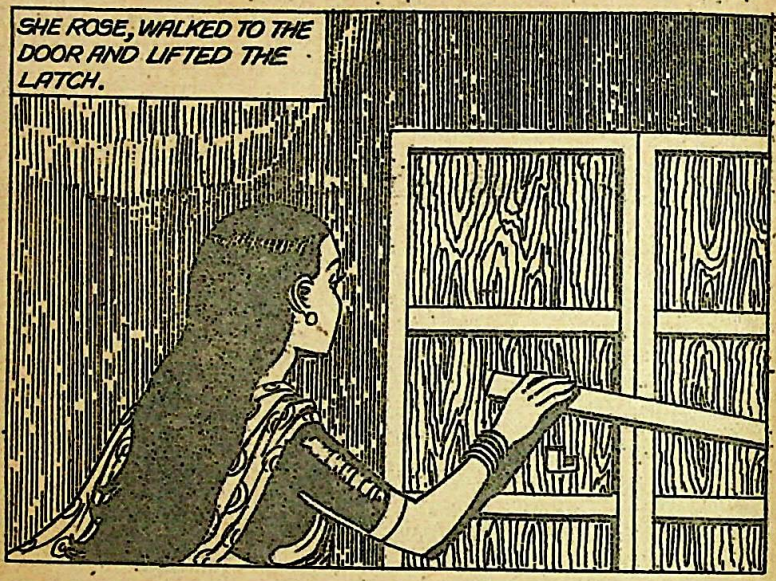

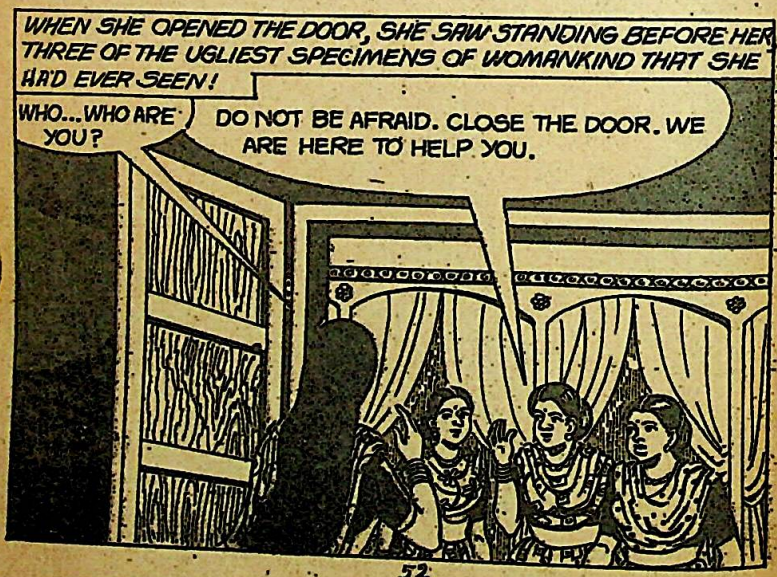

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IN THE MORNING, WHEN THE KING VISITED SUVARNA, HE WAS OPEN-MOUTHED IN ASTONISHMENT.

YOU HAVE REALLY DONE IT! BUT HOW? HOW?

TAKE ALL THIS THREAD AWAY. SURELY THERE IS A TRICK IN THIS. HOW CAN ANYONE SPIN GOLD THREAD FROM HAY? BRING MORE HAY, BIGGER BUNDLES!

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THE NIGHT WORE ON. THEN TO SUVARNA'S GREAT RELIEF, THE THREE UGLY LADIES, OF THE NIGHT BEFORE, CAME AGAIN. THEY SAW THE BUNDLES OF HAY AND SET THEMSELVES TO THE TASK OF CONVERTING THEM INTO GOLD THREAD.

AFTER THEY HAD FINISHED THE WORK—

GOOD LADIES. I DO NOT KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR FROM WHERE YOU HAVE COME. I HAVE NOTHING TO GIVE YOU IN APPRECIATION BUT THIS LITTLE GOLD RING. PLEASE TAKE IT.

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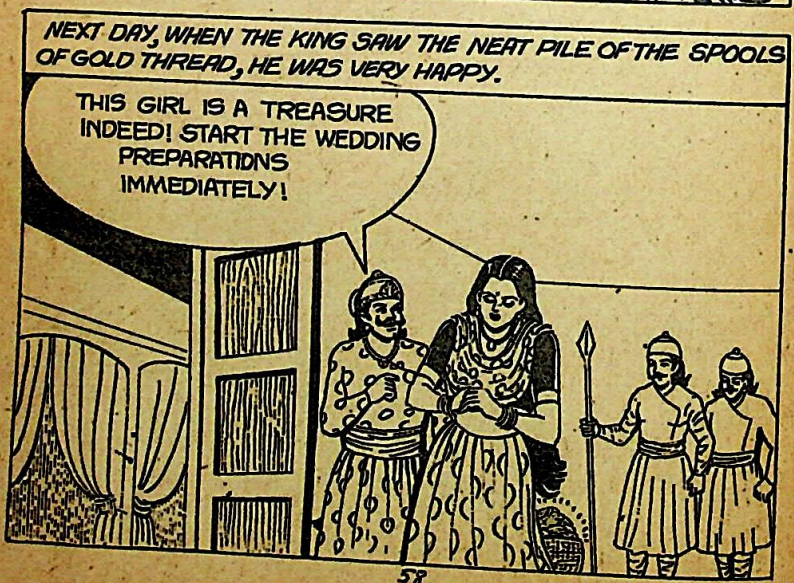

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AND WITH GREAT POMP AND SHOW, SUVARNA WAS MARRIED TO THE PRINCE.

AS THE WEDDING FEAST WAS ABOUT TO START, THE THREE UGLY LADIES APPEARED! THE PRINCE AND HIS NEW BRIDE WELCOMED THEM.

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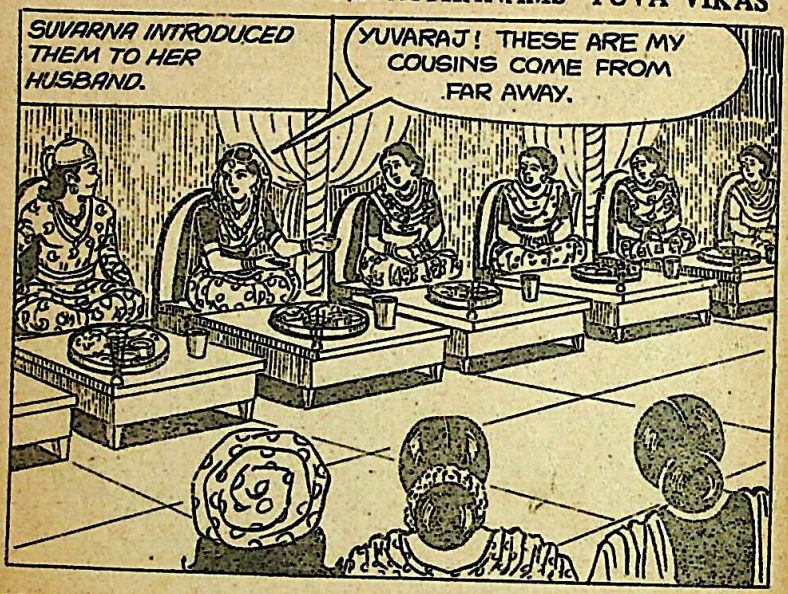

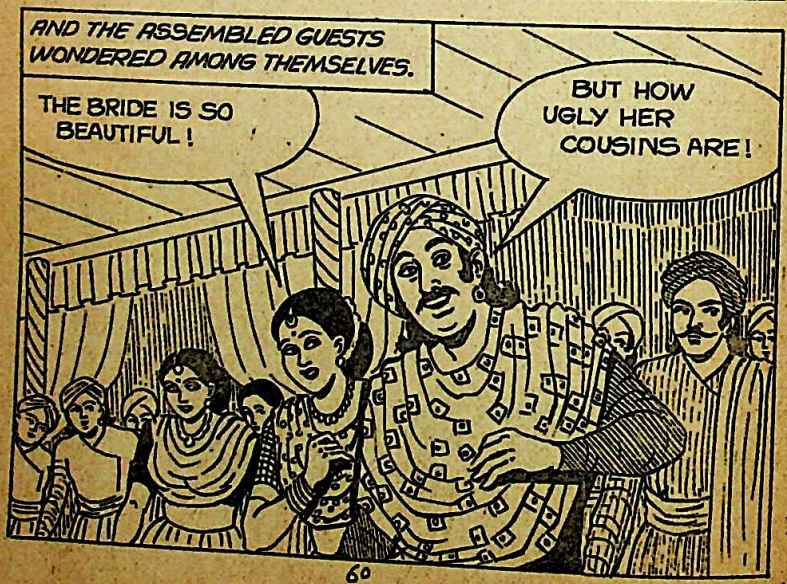

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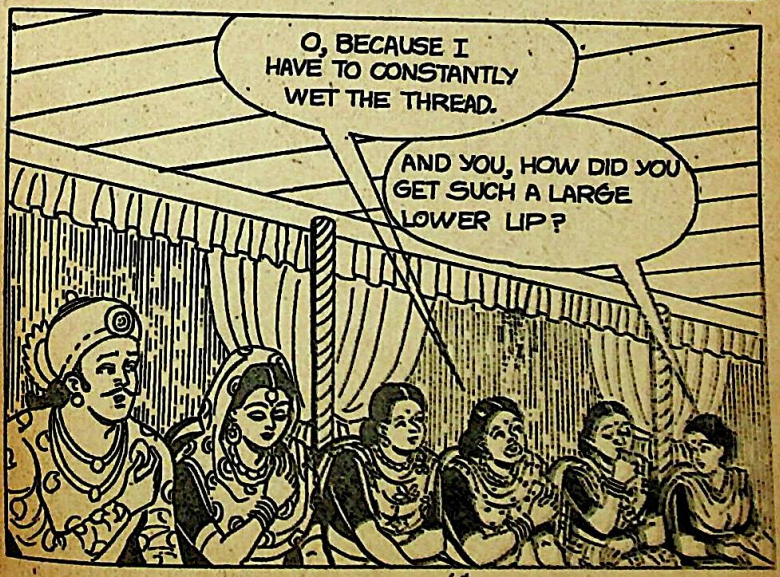

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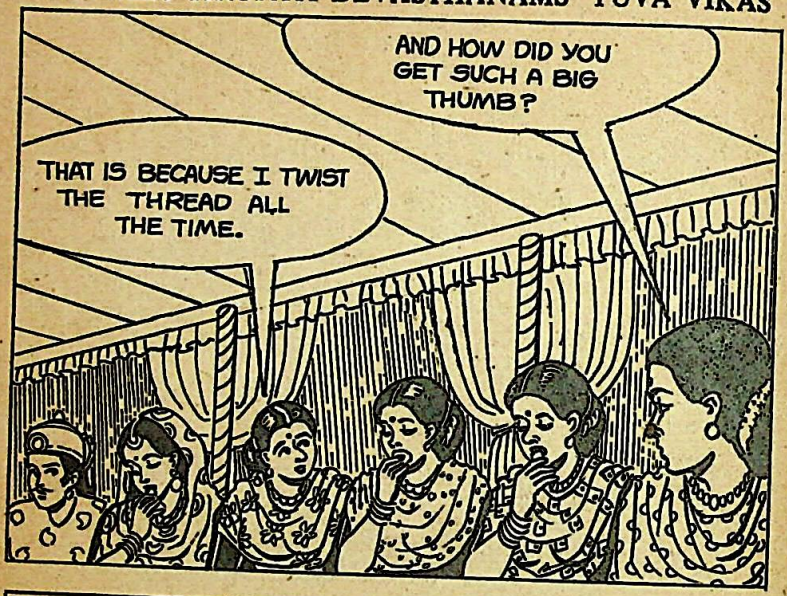

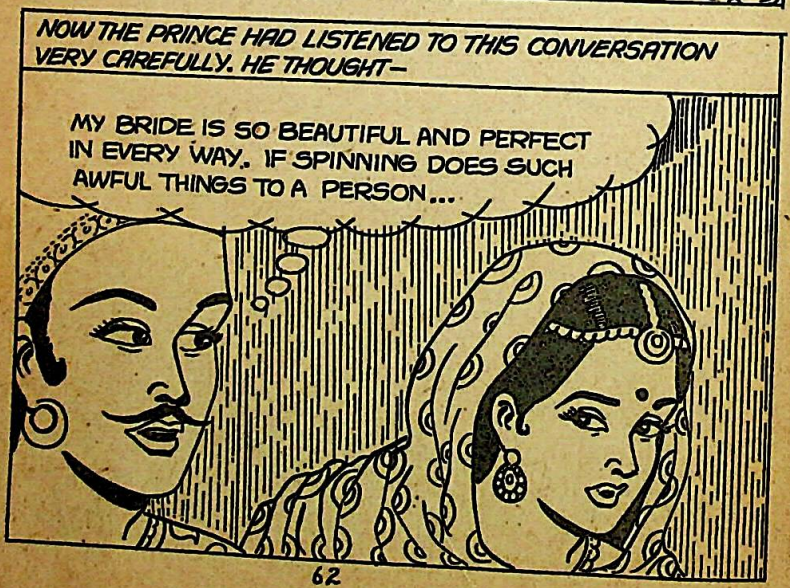

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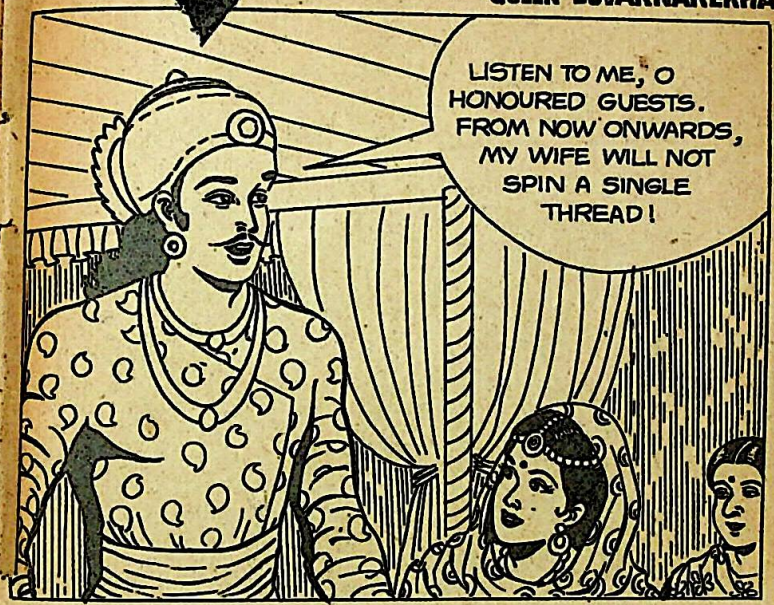

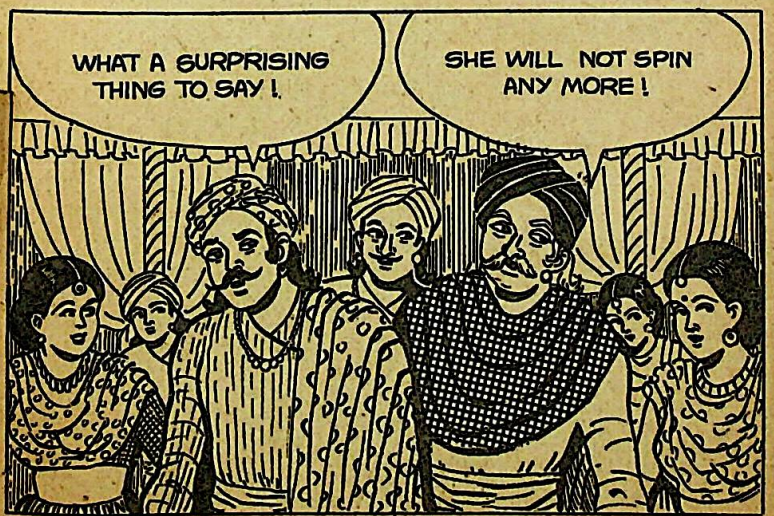

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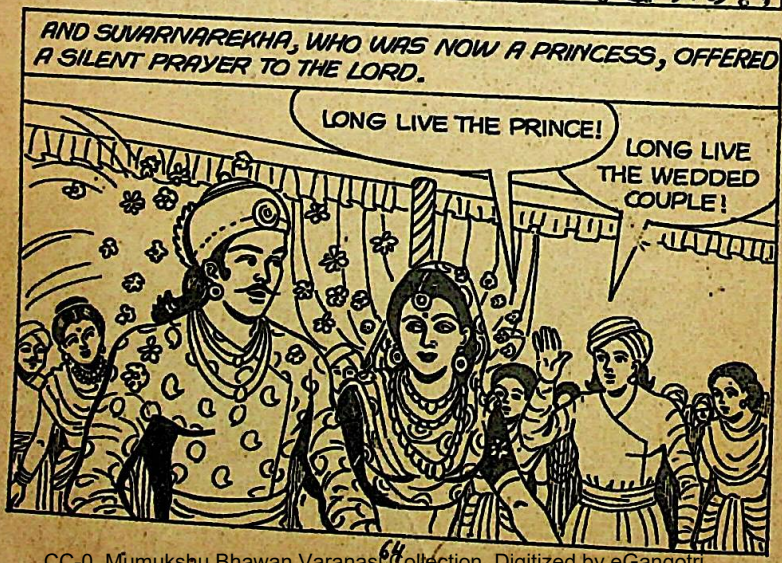

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